

The title of the application has been amended as requested by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests approval of the drawing amendments. The drawing amendments were requested in Paragraph 7 of Paper No. 6. Please note that the reference sign "74" has been added in red. Upon receipt of approval of the drawings changes, Applicant will submit the corrected drawing.

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. New Claims 16-20 are added. Support for the new claims is found in the instant application. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected as being anticipated by Mancusi et al. Claims 3-5 are rejected as being unpatentable over Mancusi et al in view of Bikson et al ('019). Claims 1-2 are rejected as being unpatentable over Huang et al in view of Mancusi et al or Caskey et al. Claims 3-5 are rejected as being unpatentable over Huang et al in view of Mancusi et al or Caskey et al in further view of Bikson et al. Applicant traverses these rejections for the reasons set out below.

With regard to the rejections based on Mancusi et al, the Examiner has taken the position that Mancusi et al "specifically

teach potting" of the tube sheets to the housing. Paper No. 6, page 4, paragraph 9. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Attached hereto please find the Declaration of Runkle. Dr. Runkle is named as the co-inventor of the Mancusi et al reference. He states in his Declaration that the passage cited by the Examiner does not refer to potting. To the contrary, that passage refers to sealing by use of an o-ring. Accordingly, the Examiner's interpretation of Mancusi et al, column 9, lines 22-27 as 'specifically teaching potting' is incorrect.

In view of the foregoing, Mancusi et al cannot anticipate Claims 1 or 2.

With regard to the Section 103 rejections of Claims 3-5 based on Mancusi et al, in view of the misinterpretation of Mancusi et al, discussed above, it too fails to disclose potting of the structure to the shell. Accordingly, the combination of references fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention.

With regard to the rejections based on Huang et al, the Examiner states that Huang et al does not teach forming a cartridge. As pointed out in the Declaration of Runkle, language identical to that in Mancusi et al is found in Huang et al. Moreover, when the cartridge is formed, it is specifically noted


that o-rings are used to form the 'seal.' Accordingly, Huang et al cannot suggest potting.

If it is assumed that Huang et al does not teach a cartridge as stated by the Examiner, support for forming a cartridge is found in Mancusi et al. The Examiner has recited that Mancusi et al teaches potting the tube sheets to the housing. However, as discussed above, Mancusi et al cannot suggest potting the tube sheet to the housing. Accordingly, the rejection based on Huang et al in view of Mancusi et al must fail.

Since the combination of Huang et al in view of Mancusi et al fails, the 103 rejection of Claims 1-5 must likewise fail.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests an early Notice of Allowance in the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A

USSN 09/851,242
Docket 2000.16
Marked-Up Title

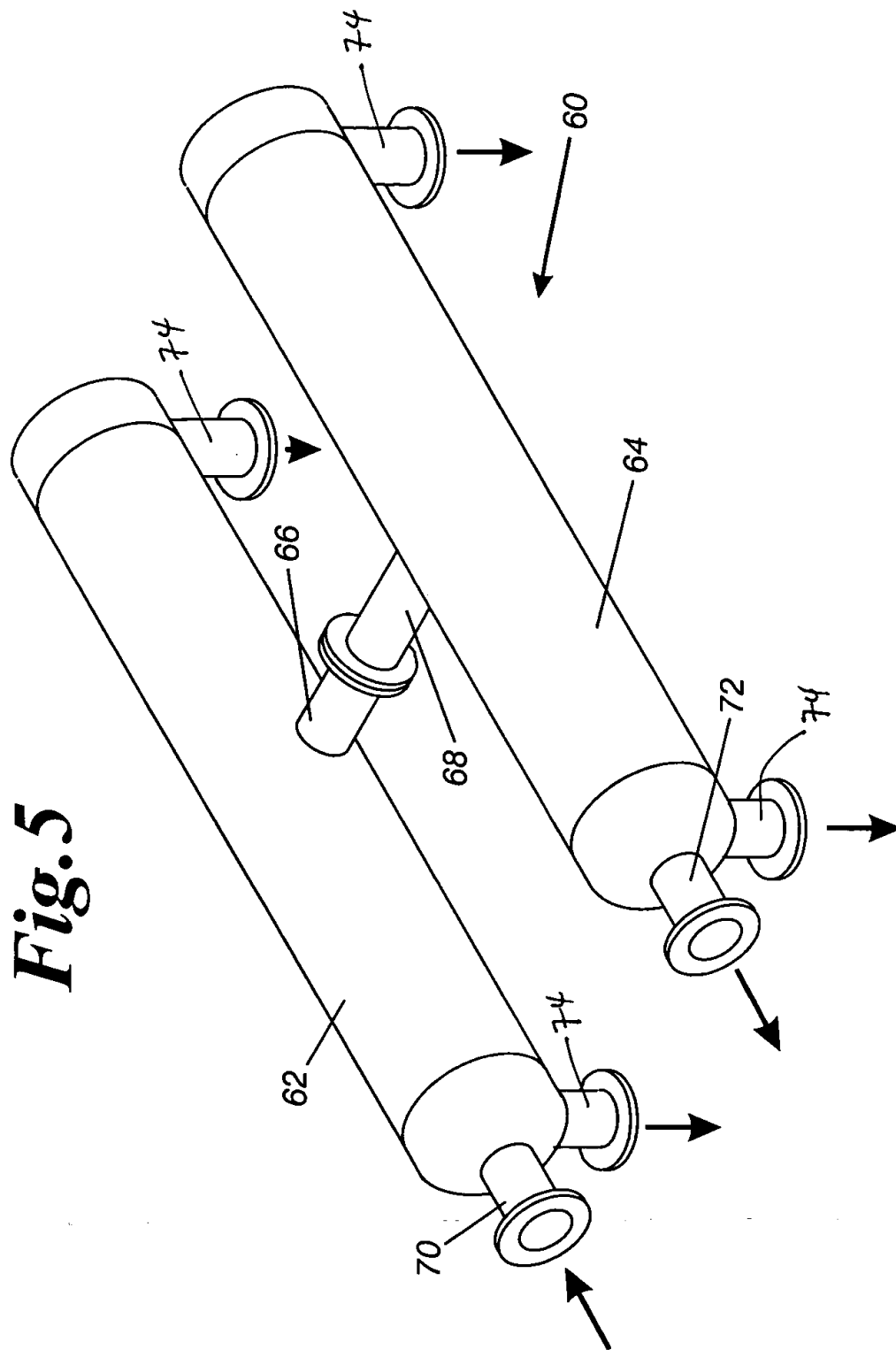
METHOD FOR MAKING A HOLLOW FIBER MEMBRANE CONTACTOR [AND METHOD FOR
MAKING SAME]



APPENDIX B

USSN 09/851,242
Docket 2000.16
Clean Title

METHOD FOR MAKING A HOLLOW FIBER MEMBRANE CONTACTOR



Approved by Examiner
2/28/03-SS



APPENDIX D

USSN 09/851,242
Docket 2000.16
Marked-Up Claims

Sub D
12/23/02

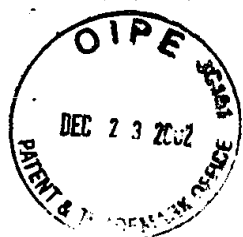
Sub D 16. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein potting further comprises potting with a material selected from the group consisting of thermosetting materials and thermoplastic materials.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the thermosetting material being selected from the group consisting of epoxy and polyurethane.

A 18. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the thermoplastic material being selected from the group consisting of polyolefins and polyurethanes.

19. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein placing the structure into a shell further comprises centering the structure in the shell.

20. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein potting the structure and the shell together further comprises injecting a potting material into a space between the structure and the shell.



APPENDIX E

USSN 09/851,242
Docket 2000.16
Clean Claims

16. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein potting further comprises potting with a material selected from the group consisting of thermosetting materials and thermoplastic materials.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the thermosetting material being selected from the group consisting of epoxy and polyurethane.

18. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the thermoplastic material being selected from the group consisting of polyolefins and polyurethanes.

19. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein placing the structure into a shell further comprises centering the structure in the shell.

20. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein potting the structure and the shell together further comprises injecting a potting material into a space between the structure and the shell.